

Via Facsimile: (703) 872-9306

9D-HR-19788  
PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A refrigerator comprising a fresh food section and a freezer section, at least one of said fresh food section and freezer section comprising a door comprising an external surface and an internal surface, and a light mounted to said external surface, said light electrically coupled to a processor-free light fade-out circuit, wherein said processor-free light fade-out circuit comprises a pulse width modulation fade-out circuit.

2. (currently amended) A refrigerator ~~in accordance with Claim 1,~~ comprising a fresh food section and a freezer section, at least one of said fresh food section and freezer section comprising a door comprising an external surface and an internal surface, and a light mounted to said external surface, said light electrically coupled to a processor-free light fade-out circuit, wherein said processor-free light fade-out circuit comprises a step down circuit, a one-half integrator, a square-wave generator, an integrator, and a voltage comparator wherein said step down circuit is electrically coupled to said one-half integrator, said square-wave generator is electrically coupled to said integrator, and said voltage comparator is electrically coupled to said one-half integrator and said integrator.

3. (original) A refrigerator in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said step down circuit comprises a resistive circuit comprising at least one resistor.

4. (original) A refrigerator in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said one-half integrator comprises at least one capacitor and at least two resistors.

5. (original) A refrigerator in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said square-wave generator comprises an integrated circuit, at least one resistor, and a capacitor.

6. (original) A refrigerator in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said integrator comprises at least one resistor and at least one capacitor.

7. (original) A refrigerator in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said voltage comparator comprises an integrated circuit and at least one resistor.

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8. (original) A processor-free light fade-out circuit, said light fade-out circuit comprising a step down circuit, a one-half integrator, a square-wave generator, an integrator, and a voltage comparator wherein said step down circuit is electrically coupled to said one-half integrator, said square-wave generator is electrically coupled to said integrator, and said voltage comparator is electrically coupled to said one-half integrator and said integrator.

9. (original) A light fade-out circuit in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said step down circuit comprises a resistive circuit comprising at least one resistor.

10. (original) A light fade-out circuit in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said one-half integrator comprises at least one capacitor and at least two resistors.

11. (original) A light fade-out circuit in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said square-wave generator comprises an integrated circuit, at least one resistor, and a capacitor.

12. (original) A light fade-out circuit in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said integrator comprises at least one resistor and at least one capacitor.

13. (original) A light fade-out circuit in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said voltage comparator comprises an integrated circuit and at least one resistor.

14. (currently amended) A method for de-energizing an appliance light, said method comprising:

providing a light bulb;

providing a processor-free light fade-out circuit, wherein the processor-free light fade-out circuit comprises a pulse width modulation fade-out circuit; and

electrically coupling the light bulb to the processor-free light fade-out circuit such that the appliance light is de-energized using the processor-free light fade-out circuit.

15. (currently amended) A method for de-energizing an appliance light ~~in accordance with Claim 14,~~ said method comprising:

providing a light bulb;

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providing a processor-free light fade-out circuit, wherein the processor-free light fade-out circuit comprises a step down circuit, a one-half integrator, a square-wave generator, an integrator, and a voltage comparator wherein ~~said~~ the step down circuit is electrically coupled to ~~said~~ the one-half integrator, ~~said~~ the square-wave generator is electrically coupled to ~~said~~ the integrator, and ~~said~~ the voltage comparator is electrically coupled to ~~said~~ the one-half integrator and ~~said~~ the integrator; and

electrically coupling the light bulb to the processor-free light fade-out circuit such that the appliance light is de-energized using the processor-free light fade-out circuit.

16. (original) A method for de-energizing an appliance light in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the step down circuit comprises a resistive circuit comprising at least one resistor and wherein the one-half integrator comprises at least one capacitor and at least two resistors.

17. (original) A method for de-energizing an appliance light in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the square-wave generator comprises an integrated circuit, at least one resistor, and a capacitor.

18. (original) A method for de-energizing an appliance light in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the integrator comprises at least one resistor and at least one capacitor.

19. (original) A method for de-energizing an appliance light in accordance with Claim 15 wherein the voltage comparator comprises an integrated circuit and at least one resistor.

20. (currently amended) A method for de-energizing an appliance light in accordance with Claim 14 15 wherein the appliance is a refrigerator.